



Lexington

ss 12 Oakland St.

ric Name Dr. N.H. Merriam House

Original residence

Present residence

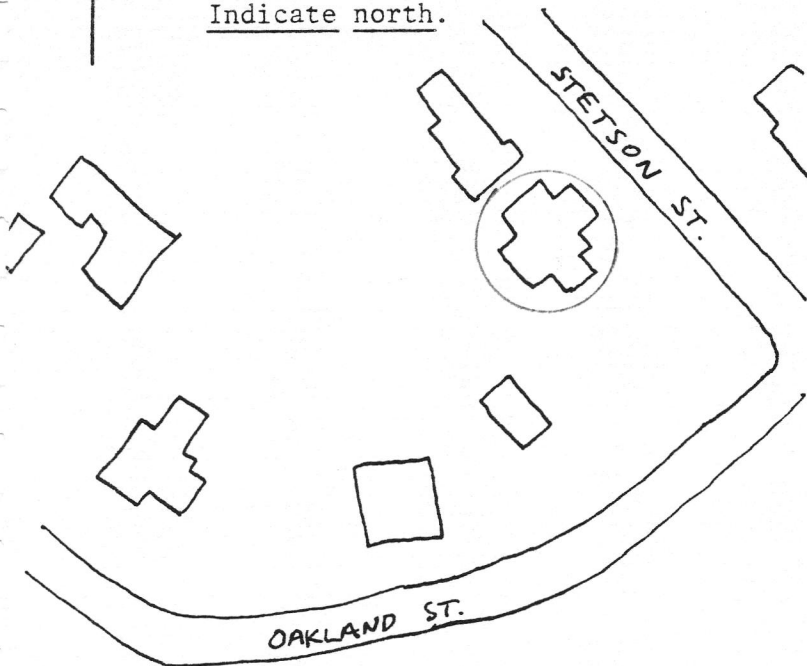
ship: ☒ Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Dr N. H. Merriam

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1889Source Minute-man, July 26, 1889Style Queen Anne

Architect

Exterior wall fabric yellow wood clapboards
& shingles

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates)

porch roofed & screened, 1962.

Moved Date

Approx. acreage .5 (22000')Recorded by Joan Webber
Henry V. Taves; Anne GradyOrganization Lexington Historical Comm.Date 1977, 1980; March, 1984

Setting An imposing site at the southern crest of Meriam Hill; surrounded by ample houses, most of similar late nineteenth century construction date.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

Gabled portico w/dentiled cornice, 4 ionic columns & seat railing.
Triple window, 1st floor front left; triple/half window, 2nd floor middle.
Gable roof w/ smaller attached gables. 3-sided bay, 2nd floor right side.
Clapboards 1st floor; patterned shingles 2nd & 3rd floors.

(See Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The house was built for Nathaniel Henry Merriam, a physician who was the son of Matthew Merriam, developer of Meriam Hill and the proprietor of the successful shoe findings factory at the foot of Meriam Hill on Oakland Street. The house remained in his ownership until after 1906.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 432. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

1889 atlas

1887 Directory

(see Continuation Sheet)

20M-2/80

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 369
Property Name: 12 Oakland Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This is a well preserved example of the Queen Anne style with a number of inventive touches. Features include a gambrel-roofed central pavilion with palladian window, offset second-level wall plane, pedimented portico and diagonally placed windows at the corners flanking the portico. There is a three-sided oriel on the right-hand side second level. The design is tied together by the use of patterned shingles (staggered butt, and some semicircular) on the second story. There are clapboards below. The use of patterned shingles with clapboards is characteristic of Lexington buildings of the 1880s and 1890s. This is perhaps the most prominent use of patterned shingles on a Meriam Hill house of the period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1894 Directory

1899 Directory

1906 Directory

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
12 OAKLAND ST.

Area(s) Form No.

H	369
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

On July 26, 1889 the *Lexington Minute-man* reported that N.H. Merriam was building a new house on Oakland Street. Nathaniel Merriam (b. 1854) was the son of local manufacturer M.H. Merriam who operated the shoe findings shop at the foot of Meriam Hill. Nathaniel was a physician, educated at Dartmouth College, and married Emma Cottrell in 1880. The 1900 Census lists Nathaniel's occupation as a manufacturer of shoe findings, suggesting he took over the family business after his father's death in 1898. Merriam continued to live here until about 1908.

By 1913 the house at 12 Oakland Street was owned and occupied by Charles Holt, a salesman for a dry goods business. He lived here with his wife Caroline and two children. Mrs. Holt was still living here in 1942 with her daughter and daughter's family.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, July 26, 1889.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Lexington, various dates.

Supplement prepared by:
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